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WKU Student Affairs

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INSIDE

► It's juicy

Web site allows anonymous gossip at universities.

page 7



► Belly of the Building

The first part of new series takes readers inside construction site of Smith Stadium. page 7

► The Red House

A look at the public and private roles of President Gary Ransdell's house. page 9

UPCOMING

► On Thursday

Legislators begin revisions of Gov. Steve Beshear's gambling proposal.

ONLINE



► Bowl for Kid's Sake

Fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters is today at Downing University Center.

► Visual Voice

Multimedia, slideshows, photo galleries & more.

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WEATHER

TUESDAY

45°/24°

WEDNESDAY

33°/26°

THURSDAY

47°/40°

FRIDAY

52°/33°

SATURDAY

44°/35°

COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Volume 83, Number 36
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com



BRENDAN SULLIVAN/HERALD

A 'Top the rest

Kelly breaks another scoring record on day her jersey is retired

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

It was just one free throw, the last of the 12 free throws senior forward Crystal Kelly made that game.

But when she made that free throw, the crowd went ballistic and Kelly didn't know why.

She didn't realize she had just broken the Lady Toppers single game scoring record.

"I wasn't aware of (the record), I really didn't think about it," Kelly said. "I heard the crowd scream extra loud after I made that free throw. I didn't know what I had even broken."

In what proved to be the exclamation mark for the final regular-season game of her career at Diddle Arena, Kelly scored a record-breaking 42 points as the Lady Toppers (21-7, 14-2 Sun Belt Conference East Division) went on to beat Louisiana-Monroe 82-48 Saturday night.

Kelly has already broken several school and conference records, including the career records for school and conference scoring.

SEE KELLY, PAGE 10



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

(Top) Senior forward Crystal Kelly celebrates with teammates after she breaks Western's single-game scoring record, with 42 points in Saturday's 82-48 win over Louisiana-Monroe. After the game her jersey was retired. It marked the only time Western has retired an active player's jersey.

(Above) Western seniors Nadege Muna, Charlotte Marshall and Crystal Kelly laugh after kissing the floor of Diddle Arena following Saturday's game.

In the midst of violence, Kenyan students worry about family, friends

RYAN W. HUNTON
Herald reporter

Kipsiro Daniel Kiplagat said he's been feeling bad lately. He said he wants to go home to Africa. He said he's tired of this place, America.

Kipsiro, a senior distance runner, is from Eldoret, Kenya, of the Kalenjin tribe.

"In Kenya, it was the simple life," he said.

He remembers walking down a long road to his family's farm. He remembers picking fresh mangos.

He remembers his family.

"In America, you are out with each other but you do not know each other," Kipsiro said laughing. "There, I know everybody."

At Western, there are eight students from Kenya, said Robin Borczon, director of international programs. Eight people who go to class while a bloody ethnic conflict rises and falls daily in their homeland.

There are more than 50 tribes in Kenya. Kipsiro said the Kalenjin has been in conflict with the Kikuyu for as long as he can remember.

Most recently, Kalenjins and other tribes fought against Kikuyus after a disputed election.

If Kipsiro could go home, he would tell his friends not to go to war. He would tell President Mwai Kibaki not to lead the people into war.

He knows a woman at Western from the Kikuyu tribe. They cook together.

Because they are apart from the tradi-



MARY POWERS/HERALD

Senior Kipsiro Daniel Kiplagat of Eldoret, Kenya is one of eight Kenyan students at Western. Kiplagat is troubled by the violent conflict that is currently consuming his home country.

tion in their homeland, the hate of others is not their focus.

Bethuel Kiplagat, a sophomore distance runner also from Eldoret, agreed.

"Kenya should calm down," Bethuel said. "We are all brothers and sisters."

Kipsiro said that since Kenya's independence in 1963, members of the Kikuyu tribe have rarely voted for a member of another tribe.

"This is not democratic," he said. "People should open up their minds and not die with their leaders."

He said the Kalenjin fight because they lost their land. Another tribe, the Luo, fight because they lost their leader, Raila Odinga.

The country held its presidential election on Dec. 27, 2007. The incumbent Kibaki, a Kikuyu, ran against Odinga.

"Everyone elected Raila," said Bethuel, who is also from the Kalenjin. "He's the people's president."

Odinga won six of the eight provinces in Kenya. Kibaki won two.

SEE KENYAN, PAGE 6

Parking proposal shot down

NEIL SIDERS
Herald reporter

Students voted last week in an online survey to kill a parking proposal that would create restrictive housing lots.

Seventy percent of students who responded to the Parking and Transportation survey voted against the new policy.

Parking and Transportation won't take the proposal to the Administrative Council, because the department doesn't want to implement a policy that students don't support, said Jennifer Tougas, director of Parking and Transportation.

The Student Government Association will still discuss the proposal at its meeting today, but the chances of a supporting vote are slim, SGA President Jeanne Johnson said.

The tiered proposal was the first step toward a designated parking system, in which parking permits would be sold for a specific lot, Tougas said. The goal was to reduce the number of students who park on campus.

Now Parking and Transportation will rethink how to create a solution to the parking problem, Tougas said.

"A common complaint expressed by residents is that they expect a parking permit to equal a parking space where they want to park," Tougas stated in the proposal given to SGA.

The system would have created new premium housing permits for zones that would be made in the center of campus, replacing non-premium spots, according to the proposal made by Tougas at the SGA meeting.

Students with non-premium permits would have to park toward the outside of campus in lots including the Creason lot, the Jones-Jaggers lot and the University Boulevard lot.

Tougas' proposal didn't offer new parking spaces, although some are planned for the future.

The new system would have set aside 773 housing parking spaces for premium housing parking, restricting students with non-premium permits to about 24 percent of the current housing zone.

Under the current system, the amount of permits issued exceeds the total number of spots by 200, leaving students to search for an open spot that might not exist, the proposal stated.

Under the proposal, Parking and Transportation would have still sold 164 more non-premium permits than spots available.

Premium housing permits issued would have equaled the number of parking spaces available in the premium housing zones.

Under the proposed system, permits for premium housing parking would have cost \$175, while non-premium housing permits would have remained \$85.

Paige Kalantar, a freshman from Flint, Mich., said she voted against the proposal because of the permits' prices.

Dana Snowden, a Louisville freshman who hopes to drive to campus next semester, didn't vote, but agreed.

"That's an awful lot of money on top of what we already pay," Snowden said.

Still, students with premium housing permits could have parked in non-premium spaces, leaving spaces in premium zones open.

SEE PARKING, PAGE 5

2

DAY

BY THE NUMBERS

18

Number of different animal shapes in the Animal Crackers cookie zoo.

250

Average dollar amount a bank teller loses each year.

13

Number of seconds of the longest recorded flight of a chicken.

63,000

Number of trees it takes to make the newsprint for the average Sunday edition of The New York Times.

200,000

Average glasses of milk a cow will give during its lifetime.

Sources: www.factlib.com
www.strangefacts.com
www.funofun.com/crazyfacts.htm
www.weird-websites.com/justweird/weird-facts.htm

► CORRECTION

Due to a Herald error, Doug Tate’s title was incorrect in the front page story about the ONE Campaign Campus Challenge, in the Feb. 21 issue. He is a Student Government Association senator and the public relations director for the ONE Campaign Campus Challenge. Matt Vaughan’s last name was also misspelled four times in the story. The Herald regrets the errors.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters’ or editors’ attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 or report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@chherald.com.



WHAT’S

GOING ON?

The calendar runs every Tuesday. Send your event post request by 3 p.m. Monday to calendar@chherald.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

- College Bowl for Kids Sake, 5 p.m.- 9 p.m., DUC fourth floor
- Eating disorders awareness speaker: A story of recovery, 7 p.m., DUC 340
- Warren County Chess Club, 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m., community college
- Robot Eyes III, 7:30 p.m., Hardin Planetarium
- Special guest speaker York Moore will be at this week’s 180, the BCM weekly worship service. Grise Auditorium at 8:30

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

- Playback: big sizes, small styles, 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., Gordon Wilson Auditorium
- What parents need to know about teenage dating violence, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Clinical Education Complex
- WKU EcoFlix presents The Corporation, 7 p.m., Mass Media Auditorium

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

- Cultural Diversity Film Series, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Glasgow Campus, room 269
- Dave Ramsey, 4 p.m., Van Meter Auditorium
- National Eating Disorders Screening, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., DUC
- Sweet Charity, 8 p.m.- 10 p.m., Russell H. Miller Theatre
- Robot Eyes III, 7:30 p.m., Hardin Planetarium
- Sam Abell, National Geographic Photographer, Lecture, 7:30 p.m., Mass Media Auditorium
- WKU EcoFlix presents The Corporation, 11 a.m., RedZone

FRIDAY, FEB. 29

- Sweet Charity, 8 p.m.- 10 p.m., Russell H. Miller Theatre
- 2008 KWLA Foreign Language Festival, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m., all fine arts center department offices, language lab and Garrett Ballroom, Garrett room 101 and Garrett room 103
- Chamber of Commerce breakfast, 7 a.m., Diddle Arena
- Dynamic Leadership Institute I, noon- 1:15 p.m., Glasgow campus room 131
- Dynamic Leadership Institute II, 1:15 p.m.- 2:30 p.m., Glasgow campus room 131

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- Canoeing the Green River, 8 a.m.,
- Community Bowl for Kids Sake, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Southern Lanes
- Girls in Science Day, 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Thompson Complex Central Wing
- Sweet Charity, 8 p.m.- 10 p.m., Russell H. Miller Theatre

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- Canoeing the Green River, 6 p.m.
- Community Bowl for Kids Sake, 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m., Southern Lanes
- Sweet Charity, 8 p.m.- 10 p.m., Russell H. Miller Theatre
- Robot Eyes III, 2:30 p.m., Hardin Planetarium

► CRIME REPORTS

Reports

John Seng, Louisville, reported on Feb. 24 the theft of a tire and rim from his vehicle in the Mimosa lot. The value of the theft was \$275.

Celeste Quire, Normal Street, reported on Feb. 23 damage to her vehicle parked on Normal Street. The value of the damage was \$350.

Trey McDaris, Newburgh, Ind., reported on Feb. 23 the theft of an iPod cable from his vehicle in Pearce-Ford lot. The value of the theft was \$30.

Asa Cummings, Franklin, reported on Feb. 23 the theft of electronics, clothing, money and two gift cards from his vehicle in Poland lot. The value of the theft was \$320.

Adam Reynolds, Lexington, reported on Feb. 23 damage to his vehicle in Mimosa lot. The value of the damage was \$250.

Tiffany Longstreet, Lexington, reported on Feb. 23 the theft of a wallet and contents from the Carroll Knically Conference Center. The value of the theft was \$135.

Timothy Gilliam, La Grange, reported on Feb. 21 the theft of a car key and key holder from a shower in PFT. The value of the theft was \$110.

Arrests

Montoria S. Hill, Bowling Green, was arrested on Feb. 24 at Morgantown Road and Potter Street on charges of careless driving and driving under the influence under 21. She was released from the Warren County Regional Jail the same day on a \$750 unsecured bond.

James M. Daley, Fort Thomas, was arrested on Feb. 24 in front of Southwest Hall on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place and possession of alcohol by a minor. He was released from the Warren County Jail the same day on a \$750 surety bond.

Jacob H. Hughes, Marion, was arrested on Feb. 23 on State Street on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place. He was released from the Warren County Jail the same day after serving five hours.

Jenna E. Gearheart,

Prestonsburg, was arrested on Feb. 23 on College Heights Boulevard on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place. She was released from the Warren County Jail the same day after serving five hours.

John C. Darnell, Franklin, was arrested on Feb. 23 on College Heights Boulevard on charges of careless driving, failure to signal, possession of an open alcohol container in the vehicle and driving under the influence. He was released from the Warren County Jail the same day on a \$750 unsecured bond.

Christopher C. Rose, Franklin, Tenn., was arrested on Feb. 22 in Bemis Lawrence Hall on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place. He was released from the Warren County Jail the next day after serving five hours.

Matthew E. Krysz, Franklin, Tenn., was arrested on Feb. 22 in Barnes-Campbell Hall on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place. He was released from the Warren County Jail on the next day after serving five hours.

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WASHINGTON

ONE DOLLAR

1

WASHINGTON

ONE DOLLAR

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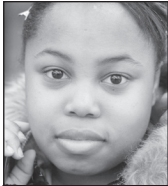
PEOPLE
POLL

How were you affected by Thursday's icy conditions?



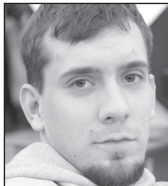
Laura Cohron
Bowling Green freshman

"I was a hour late for class because my bus stopped due to ice."



Christian Finch
Louisville freshman

"The ice was not a problem for me because all my classes were canceled."



Justin Rigbsby
Franklin senior

"After slipping, falling and running late for class, I stopped to help a guy in a wheelchair who was spinning out and trying to go up the Hill. It is hard enough for students to get to class, let alone those with disabilities."



Garret Presley
Henderson senior

"Due to the ice, I went home early and skipped class on Thursday and Friday."

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HERALD

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CONTACT

Advertising 745-2653
advertising@chonline.com
News Desk 745-6011
news@chherald.com
Diversions Desk 745-6291
diversions@chherald.com
Opinion Desk 745-6011
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SUBMISSIONS

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. **Here are a few guidelines:**

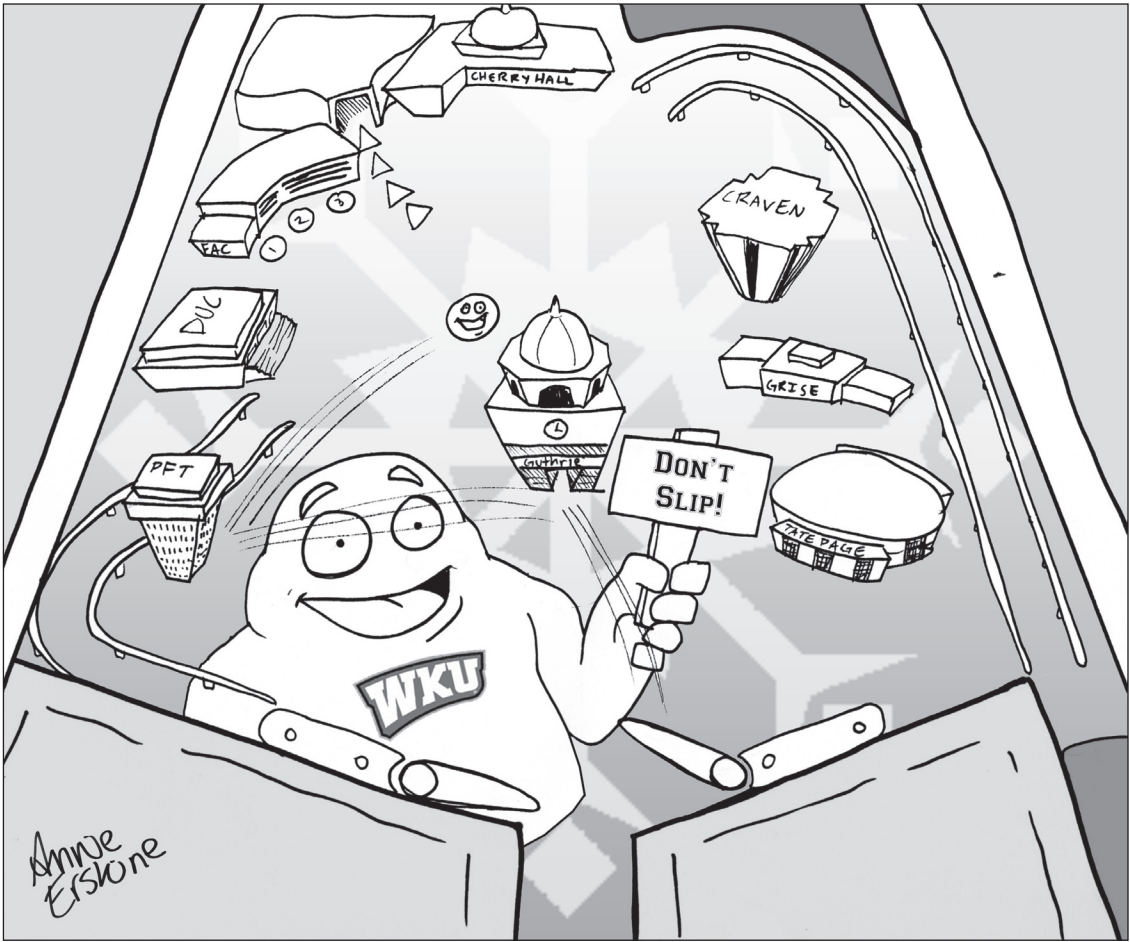
1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries **MUST** include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this newspaper DO NOT reflect those of Western's employees or of its administration.

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL



Ice, Ice Baby

Late cancellations give safety cold shoulder

Last Thursday's ice storms turned Western's campus into a giant frozen slip and slide. Students with morning classes had to make the decision as to whether they would take an absence or gamble with their safety in order to get to class.

After taking their time, Western officials finally notified students of the class cancellation at about 1:40 p.m. via text messaging on the new alert system.

The National Weather Service and WBKO urged drivers to avoid driving unless necessary. It was reported in the Daily News that the freezing rain and ice resulted in more than 50 vehicle related accidents all over Bowling Green.

Though no serious accidents were reported on campus, several students from the main and south campuses slipped and fell on their way to class.

Western should have acted sooner and taken the lead in ensuring the safety of its students. Western shouldn't have waited until the middle of the day to cancel classes when the ice resulted in countless

injuries and one death.

This is a situation where "better late than never" does not apply. By noon on Thursday, most of the roads were in decent condition, and the sun had melted the ice away. Canceling classes at this point was reactionary, not preventive.

We understand the need to keep classes in session. Cancellations mess up the academic calendar and should be avoided when possible. But the safety of students shouldn't be underestimated. After all, it didn't take too much to find out how icy the roads were on Thursday. Just ask any of the students who bruised their tail bones trying to make their way to class.

Hopefully, next time we get hit with dangerous weather conditions, Western will take the lead in ensuring the safety of their students. It does not take WBKO or the National Weather Service to tell us that.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

COMMENTARY

When icy, do the shuffle



Ryan W. Hunton
Herald Reporter

When I walked out the front door of my house, I knew something was wrong. Two students with backpacks, hands in pockets, shuffled in a sort of slow motion. One careful step at a time, they walked like they were maybe sad, maybe thinking, maybe aimless.

"What is going on?" I thought.

I had about 15 minutes to get to class from my house — roughly, a 15 to 20 minute walk. I needed to go, go, go.

I noticed the ice on my first step onto the sidewalk. Immediately, I found myself shuffling in slow motion like everyone else.

I saw a friend stalled in a bit of confusion on the sidewalk ahead. I shuffled over to him. He looked at me and we shuffled together.

"You're going to get run over," he said as I began to helplessly slide toward the road, "and I'm going to slip and fall."

"I've never seen anything like this," I said.

We came up with a plan. Although the grass was icy, it was walkable. We should walk on the grass.

As I approached the intersection at University Boulevard, one guy turned to me shaking his head, smiling.

"Pretty silly, eh?" I said.

"It's like God played a trick on us."

The cars were moving at no more than 10 mph. As I crossed the street, another guy couldn't seem to control his legs, quickly flailing into the air. After he made it to the other side, he stopped and breathed.

In the precious times I could find grass on the campus, I used it to my advantage. Salty sidewalks were hard to come by. Many people walked on them anyway.

When I arrived to class five minutes late, there were about 10 people and the professor had not showed up. He quickly walked in as I sat. Regular routine, some Renaissance art, some architecture.

I walked back outside, somehow expecting something different. Shuffle, shuffle. The steps by the library were dangerous. I grabbed onto the icy rail, and stepped, very aware of Kevin McCallister's prank on Harry and Marv in "Home Alone."

I shuffled down to Mass Media and Technology Hall. Professor Mac McKerral said there were e-mails storming the faculty server. Accounts of students falling.

"Is anybody doing any work around here?" Mac asked jokingly. "Come on."

He let class out 45 minutes early and told us not to slip and fall.

I walked back outside, expecting something different. People were no longer shuffling. But hands were still in pockets and people still moved in slow motion.

*Reach Ryan W. Hunton
at news@chherald.com.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Western should show more regard for safety

Question: Why do students go to college? Answer: To get an education.

Though it seems simple, that's not always the case. On a day like last Thursday, when ice storms suddenly covered Bowling Green, students found themselves facing a whole new dilemma. Which is more important: my safety or my education?

Many would agree that is no dilemma at all. Breaking your neck is obviously not an acceptable price to pay to reach your class on time. Unfortunately, the authorities at Western seem to disagree.

Unaware of the icy escapades that awaited me, I left my apartment just before 8 a.m. to reach my Spanish class — I had two quizzes I couldn't afford to

miss. I turned the corner and promptly slipped and fell hard on the sidewalk. I got up and tried again. I was rewarded with another meet and greet with the slick concrete. Next, I tried getting up and just standing still. That wasn't possible either, as I simply slid on the slanted sidewalk toward the street.

In the end, I had to half-walk, half-crawl the 100 feet back to my apartment, watching cars slip and slide all around me. In less than two hours, I watched five cars slide off the road just outside my apartment, three of which ended in accidents. Western had yet to cancel main campus classes.

Throughout the state, schools and universities closed in response to the weather. The University of Louisville canceled its classes due to the mere

forecast, as ice there had yet to fall. The Kentucky State Police warned that roads were hazardous and should be avoided if at all possible. WBKO told drivers to stay off the road, as accidents were piling up citywide. Still, Western expected its students to be in class.

I understand that classes are important, and it is Western's responsibility to stay in session if students can reasonably reach campus, but that wasn't really possible in Thursday's weather conditions. Students were faced with risking their safety or missing important class material. It's a lose-lose situation that Western forced upon them by refusing to cancel classes.

Though evening classes, which were not dangerous to reach, were eventually canceled, it seems to me that the authorities at Western should be checking their

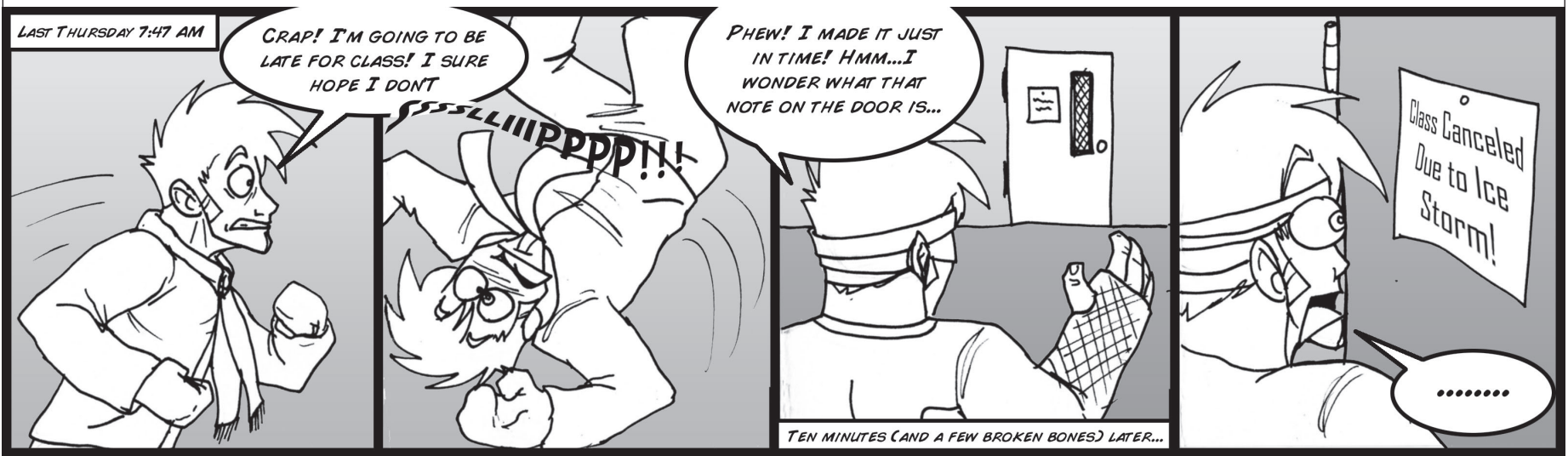
priorities. In Friday's Daily News, Bob Edwards was quoted saying that "it takes something pretty severe to cancel all classes on the main campus" because "a fair amount of our students live on campus or within walking distance." Aside from the fact this doesn't consider commuters or the perils of actually walking, I doubt I will be alone in appreciating the irony that Mr. Edwards couldn't report to work Thursday because of icy roads near his home. Surprise! The rest of us had ice too.

Now, days later, I'm still enjoying my gift from Western: a horribly achy body from my dual slip'n'slide action and I still missed my quizzes.

Jacob Epperson
Louisville senior

Annie's

OUTLOOK A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine



PARKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Louisville sophomore Dejuan Guess didn't vote, but said he would also have been interested in purchasing a premium space, because he'd feel safer parking in the core of campus late at night.

The addition of new parking zones was projected to increase revenue for Parking and Transportation by about \$70,000.

That money would have been used to supplement parking lot maintenance and construction, Tougas stated.

The primary obstacle in cre-

ating a designated system is that there isn't enough busing to transport all commuting students who are refused a permit from their residences to campus, Tougas said.

Tougas said the plan wouldn't have adversely affected students buying non-premium permits because not every student who owns a permit would be on campus at the same time.

But Ginny Griffin, operations manager for parking services, said she had "mixed emotions" about the program because non-premium students would be pushed to outer lots and still have to hunt for spaces.

Johnson had supported the proposed system, saying it addressed the problem of park-

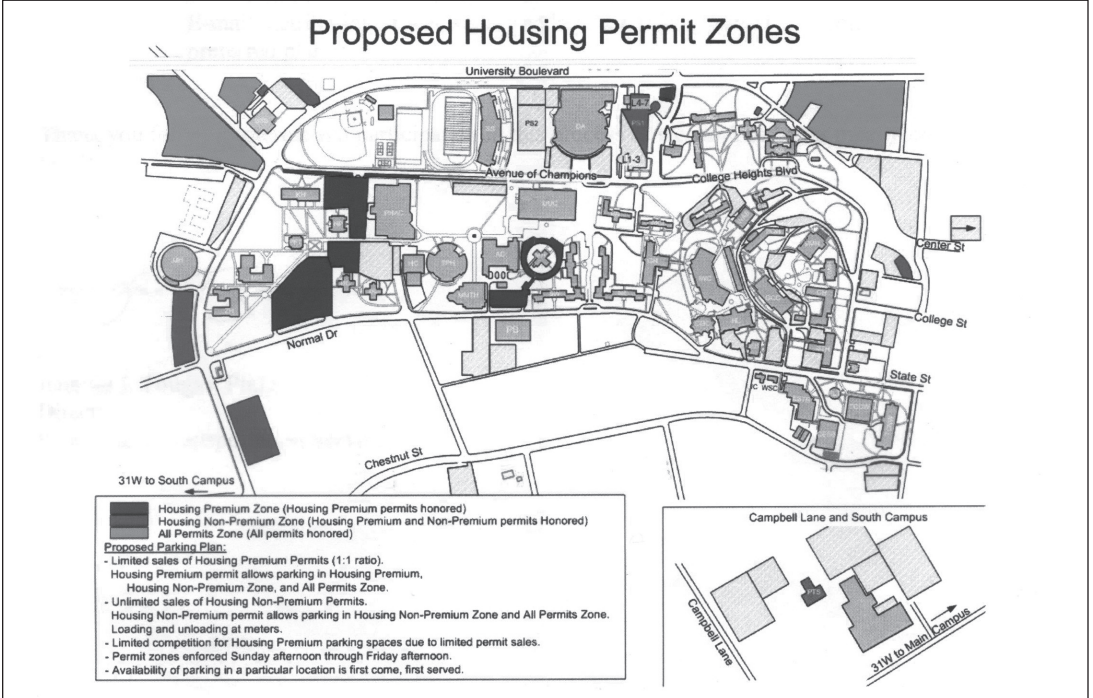
ing from a "capitalist" perspective.

Increasing prices is necessary to reconcile the disparity between demand for parking spaces and the number of spaces, Johnson said.

Parking and Transportation has tried several different methods to decrease the number of students who bring cars to campus.

Methods include increased bicycle storage racks on campus, adding bike routes on campus, giving random monetary prizes to students who use the public transportation system and increasing enforcement of parking codes.

Reach Neil Siders
at news@chherald.com.



ADMINISTRATION

Western isn't alone in budget cuts

MICHELLE DAY
LAUREL WILSON
Herald reporters

As Western faces the possibility of further cuts to its departments' budgets, the Bowling Green city government must cut \$800,000 from its own departments.

The cuts must happen because of a shortfall in revenue, what Mayor Elaine Walker said was the result of a slow-moving economy.

There will be about a \$3.4 million budget shortfall if Bowling Green can't bring in more money by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Meisel said.

All city departments will see a 3 percent cut to make up the remaining \$800,000, Walker said.

The cuts will be on general operating costs, Meisel said.

Departments were told of the cuts on Jan. 19, so the specifics of the cuts are not yet known.

The \$3.4 million reflects

what the shortfall would have been as of Jan. 31, but the exact amount it will be is unknown, Meisel said.

"We're still hoping things will improve and the economy will pick back up," he said.

The city has made up for about \$2.6 million of the shortfall by under-spending, mostly by not filling vacant positions, Meisel said.

City budgets across the state are facing shortfalls, she said.

"We're very fortunate," Walker said. "If you look at other cities in the state, some of them had much greater shortfalls."

The shortfall is the result a slower overall economy, he said.

There is also less money coming in from occupational tax, he said.

The occupational tax decreased from 2 percent to 1.85 percent effective Jan. 1.

The city's revenue has decreased by .9 percent, about \$278,000, according to Bowling Green's Monthly Financial Memorandum.

So far, the city has spent 5.4 percent, or about \$1.54 million, more than last year, according to the memorandum.

Commissioner Brian Strow, an associate economics professor who advocated the occupational tax decrease, said the decrease isn't to blame for the shortfall.

"It's really an increase in the pace of spending that's the problem," Strow said. "The city has increased spending faster than revenue is coming in."

Officials began seeing signs of a shortfall in December, when revenue was 9 percent below the previous year's, Meisel said. There was some improvement in January since that number is now only .9 percent, but revenue is still lower than last years.

The city does get some money from taxes from the state government, but Meisel said the state budget imbalance won't affect Bowling Green's budget shortfall.

Reach the reporters
at news@chherald.com.

Herald

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Patricia Blewett, MD
joined WKU in August 2003. She is board certified in Family Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine, and Certified Medical Review Officer with the AAMRO. Dr. Blewett has been a Fellow of the AAFP since 2004. She has been a Diplomate of ABFM since 1994. Prior to joining Health Services, she practiced in Franklin, KY for nine years. She also served as an emergency room physician at Franklin-Simpson Memorial Hospital for six years. She also previously serviced as a physician with U.S. Army. Our two physicians have admitting privileges at both area hospitals.



Allen Redden, MD
is our Medical Director/Physician. He has been with Health Services for 7 1/2 years. He specializes in Internal Medicine and he is board certified. Dr. Redden left his private practice of seven years in Lebanon, TN and joined WKU in August 2000.



Ta'Neka Vaden, WHANP
joined our Health Service staff in February 2008. She is a dual certified Women's/Adult Health Nurse Practitioner. Ms. Vaden graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2007 with her MSN and the University of Louisville in 2006 with her BSN. She has worked in many areas including Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Renal/Med-Surgery, Cardiac Telemetry, and Emergency Medicine. She is certified by the National Certification Corporation and the American Nurses Credentialing Center. As an active community leader, she is involved in many health oriented organizations.

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STATE GOVERNMENT

Bill to make cancer vaccine mandatory

MICHELLE DAY
Herald reporter

The cervical cancer vaccine could be mandatory if a bill passed in the state House of Representatives passes in the Senate.

The House passed a bill on a 56-37 vote that would make the vaccine one of the required immunizations for school-age girls.

Cervical cancer is caused by human papillomaviruses, a group of sexually transmitted viruses, said Andrea Dudas, a health educator in Health Services.

There are four strains of HPV that can cause nearly 70 percent of all cervical cancer, Dudas said.

Males are the carriers of HPV, but there isn't yet a vaccination for males, she said.

The vaccine, Gardasil, consists of three shots, which are usually covered by insurance companies, she said.

The shot can cause symptoms similar to flu shot symptoms, including redness and swelling around the injection site, she said.

The shot is for 9- to 26-year-old females, but the target age group is sixth grade girls, who are just about to go through puberty.

Girls whose families can't pay for the vaccine could receive the shots from their local health departments, the bill states.

Parents or guardians can choose to not give consent for their children to get the vaccine, but they must sign a statement that shows they understand the link between HPV and cervical cancer.

Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, said he sponsored the bill because it's the first vaccine for a cancer, although it can't prevent some cervical cancer.

About 10 women die from cervical cancer every day, and the vaccine would decrease that number, he said.

The Family Research Council, a conservative group that promotes public policy based on a Judeo-Christian worldview, supports the vaccine as a positive development for women's health, but they don't support making the vaccine mandatory, even if parents are allowed to withhold consent, said Moira Gaul, director of women's and reproductive health at FRC.

"Essentially, we feel that the mandate, with an opt-out provision, can be coercive," she said.

Parents should be able to decide if the vaccine is right for their child after discussing options with a health care provider, she said.

Mandating the vaccine puts decision-making regarding children in the hands of the government rather than in the hands of the parents, she said.

Reach Michelle Day at news@chherald.com.

KENYAN

Continued from page 1

But on Dec. 30, Kibaki was announced the winner by the electoral commission. Less than an hour later, he was sworn in.

Bethuel said after the election, live coverage of the events was banned.

"It was an open rigging," he said.

Asked what it was like being in Kentucky from December to January, Bethuel responded without words.

He feigned a gasp, a struggle for air.

Shops in Kenya were being closed. Traffic was being blocked. Everyone stayed in their homes. Except for the youth, he said.

"They were the ones demonstrating in the streets, blocking the roads," he said.

Bethuel said he called home every day. His family wasn't hurt.

But Kipsiro remembers five of his friends with whom he studied through kindergarten and high school.

On Jan. 4, they were walking home from the city of Nairobi. A man told them a different path might be safer. They trusted him since he spoke the Kalenjin language.

The man led them into a death trap. Kipsiro said his friends were probably chopped with a machete and burned.

"It's so bad to fight someone with nothing to lose," said Kipsiro.

The violence comes when people from the slums outside of the village mingle with people in the city, said Benard Airo, a senior midfielder on the men's soccer team from Nairobi, a Luo.

"I've known the people from my village since my childhood," he said. "But people in the slums don't know each other like that."

Kipsiro said Eldoret is a peaceful place, especially compared to surrounding countries like Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, where tribal blood shedding is routine.

Last week, Odinga announced the least he would accept is to share leadership of Kenya as prime minister. This would take an amendment to the Kenyan constitution or a parliamentary act.

Kipsiro said the constitution should be thrown away. He said if there is no prime minister, there will be no peace. It's like a volcano.

"One careless word can turn the country," he said.

Associate Biology Professor Michael Stokes said the violence in Kenya has put his summer study abroad program in question. They are considering postponing the trip until the winter term.

He's taken groups of students to the country since 2004.

One girl Stokes met from Nairobi remembered a story about how her grandfather used to sit on the veranda at a downtown hotel, watching the elephants going by. That was long ago, he said.

"Nairobi has become a melting pot for business," he said.

Airo said his mother was displaced from Eldoret, her business in second-hand clothes and jewelry, closed. He said she is safe now, staying with his uncle in Nairobi. He misses her.

Airo said that God willing, he will go back to Kenya to work in the ministry, and to help youths with soccer.

Kipsiro said getting an education is his first priority as well. He said he's been saving money for tuition so kids in Kenya can go to college.

"He who has no education cannot go anywhere," Kipsiro said.

Anywhere like Bowling Green, where Kipsiro remembers a long road, mangos, family and friends. The simple life.

Reach Ryan W. Hunton at news@chherald.com.

► NEWS BRIEF

New food processing program offered

Western is offering a new concentration as a part of the advanced manufacturing major in Owensboro.

Students from Owensboro Community and Technical College who are dually enrolled at Western will be able to study food automation and manufacturing.

Quality systems and manufacturing and industrial distribution are offered as concentrations of the advanced manufacturing major on Western's main campus.

The food automation and manufacturing concentration will be unique to Owensboro, said Terry Leeper, head of the architectural and manufacturing sciences department.

"We're trying to get a presence established in Owensboro," he said.

OCC will also offer the other two concentrations from Western's main campus.

Owensboro and its surrounding counties have the highest number of food processors in the state, said Blaine Ferrell, dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

Approval for the program must pass through the University Senate March 5, Ferrell said.

"That's the last hurdle we need to jump," he said.

If the concentration is approved by the University Senate, it will be offered in fall 2008.

— Emily Ulber

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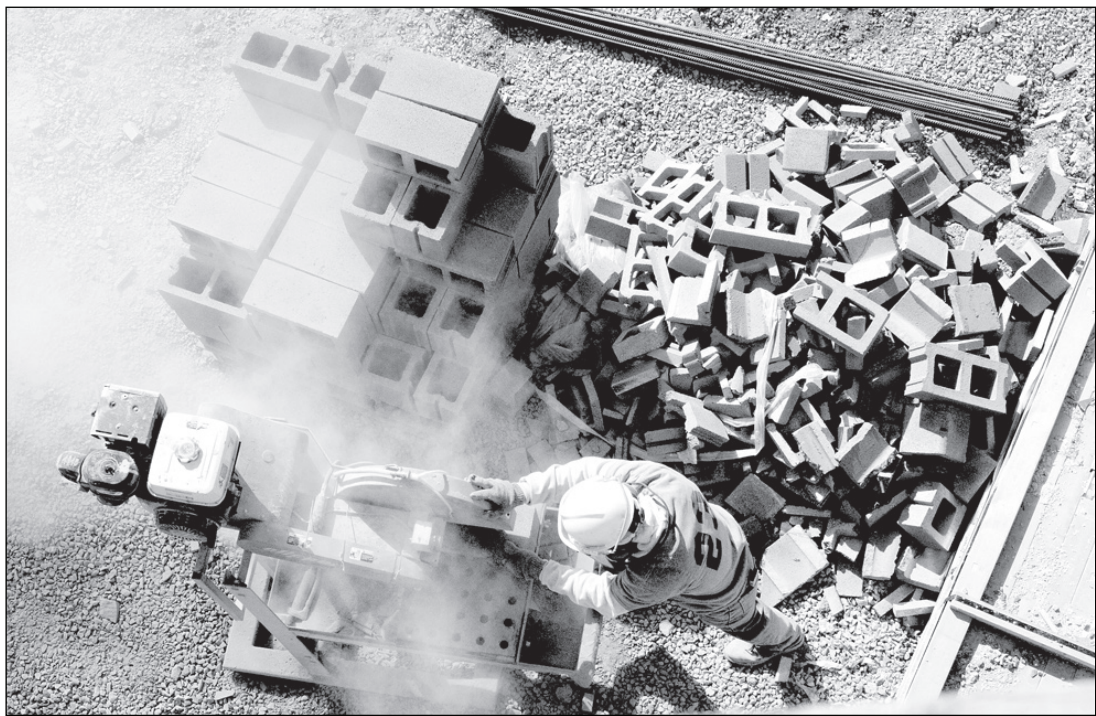


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BELLY OF THE BUILDING

Part 1 of an occasional series



LUKE SHARRETT / HERALD

Joey Payne, 21, of Bowling Green cuts cinderblock down to size for use in the construction of the new Smith Stadium west grandstand. Payne, a mason with JTK Masonry of Nashville, has been working construction for two years. "I like it," he said. "Its good."

In guts of grandstand, an arena takes shape

MARIANNE HALE
Herald reporter

SMITH STADIUM'S WEST GRANDSTAND — The entire football field lies in sight, a view fans with club seating will appreciate next football season.

The view won't be the only thing for fans, players and coaches to enjoy; each level of the west grandstand will offer new amenities.

But now, steel and concrete make up the skeleton of a project that Supervisor J.J. Thomas said would be something workers can tell their kids and grandkids they helped build, something he's proud to be a part of.

Thomas works for Abel Construction Company Inc., the contractor overseeing the renovation, which will finish in September.

Thomas is also a college football fan who became interested in college teams because of the pride they take in playing.

"Schools like University of Florida, University of Kentucky and University of Louisville have nice facilities, now Western can match them," Thomas said.

The stadium is the biggest project he's ever been superintendent of.

The stadium was built in 1967 and was in dire need of a renovation, Associate Athletics Director Craig Biggs said.

The renovation project includes both west and east grandstands as well as the track.

"It's well needed and well deserved," Biggs said.

Plans for a renovation were made before the football team switched to the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly called Division I-A.

"It'll probably have the single most impact for Western football of anything we could do short-term to propel our program forward, other than the move to I-A itself," Athletics Director Wood Selig said.

The \$49 million renovation was financed by state and university funding as well as donations from Houchens and other businesses, said Doug Ault, director of planning, design and construction.

Dealing with so many contractors and keeping everyone happy is one of the hardest parts of this large renovation, Thomas said.

Inclement weather has been another issue in the project, but workers try to make up for rain and snow days with periodic weekend workdays.

A large, concrete hole sits on the first floor of the building. The hallowed rectangle will be a therapy pool for players.

The same floor will also have a weight room, locker room, training tables and a players lounge.

Coaches' offices, now in a set of trailers near the construction site, will be on the second floor.

Coaches will be able to move

to their new offices in June when the bottom two levels of the west grandstand are completed.

The foul asphalt smell used in waterproofing the third floor will be replaced by the pleasant scent of game day food from concession stands.

Restrooms, a souvenir shop and a food court area made up of tables will also be on that level.

Workers now move building materials to the club area on top of the stadium, which will contain club seating, additional restrooms, concessions and a bar.

The new stadium will touch every aspect of the football program, Selig said.

"It won't be until we inhabit the facility that we'll truly appreciate the magnitude of the facility on our program," he said.

Nearly 100 workers including waterproofer, bricklayers, electricians, and ironworkers will continue working to have Smith Stadium football season ready.

"Our first game on Sept. 20 will be a monumental day," Selig said.

Though Thomas said he'll be glad to get the project done, he'll still be at the stadium this fall.

But then it will be as a football fan.

Reach Marianne Hale
at news@chherald.com.

CAMPUS LIFE

Web site allows users to gossip anonymously

LAUREL WILSON
Herald reporter

Finally, the Internet has a bathroom wall.

JuicyCampus.com provides a forum for students to post anything they wish, and everything is posted anonymously.

Posts on the site include threads about who's the biggest slut, who's cheating on whom, who's hot or not and so on.

And people aren't afraid to name names.

Matt Ivester, the CEO and founder of Juicy Campus, said it's important for students to have a forum for free speech such as Juicy Campus. He said the anonymity of Juicy Campus makes students able to speak out more than on sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

"We're not a social networking site at all," Ivester said.

When the site first launched in October 2007, seven college campuses were included, but now 50 more have been added, including Vanderbilt University, DePaul University, The Ohio State University and Indiana University.

Western isn't one of the campuses, but Ivester said 25 more campuses are being added next week, and that the site will continue expanding until every college campus in the country is included.

Ivester said that the popularity of Juicy Campus has increased, but the media have reported instances of student backlash.

CNN.com reported that the student governments at Pepperdine University and Cornell University have asked students and administrators to ban Juicy Campus.

Neil Ralston, assistant professor of journalism, said that students might be attacking Juicy Campus more than sites like Facebook or MySpace because of the anonymity issue.

"Once you take responsibility away from somebody, it's harder to make them accountable," Ralston said.

Ralston said that free speech is protected on the Internet in the same way as in other media. He said sites that don't control or edit their content can't be sued, and that this is probably the case for Juicy Campus.

"It would seem that Juicy Campus might be taking advantage of those protections," Ralston said. "They seem to be encouraging outrageous speech."

Legal action could possibly be taken against the people who write individual posts, Ralston said. Because Juicy Campus makes all posts anonymous, though, it would probably be difficult for this to happen, he said.

Ivester said that Juicy Campus doesn't guarantee that posts are untraceable, they are just unattributed.

Howard Bailey, associate vice president for student affairs and development, said he has never heard of Juicy Campus, but that he can't imagine it could be worse than Facebook or MySpace, which he sees as detrimental.

"Never assume that gossip is healthy," Bailey said.

Bowling Green freshman Ena Dzemailovic said she would oppose Juicy Campus if it came to Western, because its only purpose is to gossip, which she said is hurtful.

She said that people who post on sites like Juicy Campus don't think about the consequences of their actions, and that's how school shootings happen.

Louisville junior Sarah Sprinkle said Juicy Campus is more hurtful than spoken gossip because anybody can look at the online posts.

"It's like you don't have respect for anybody else," she said.

Reach Laurel Wilson
at news@chherald.com.

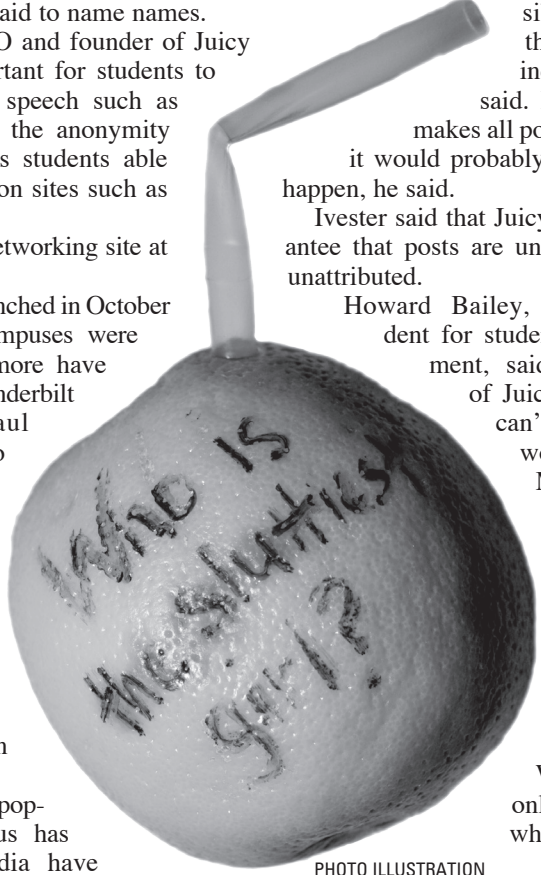


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ADMINISTRATION



FILE PHOTO

Inside the Red House: President’s house used for entertaining, events, meetings

EILEEN RYAN
Herald reporter

Rarely does a weekend go by that Gary and Julie Ransdell don’t have company, from prospective students and athletic recruits to faculty and visiting dignitaries.

While the Ransdells’ house is their private residence, it also serves as an important part of President Ransdell’s job. By holding meetings, functions and fundraisers in his house, Ransdell feels he offers visitors a more valuable Western experience.

“It’s different than having a function in an academic building,” Ransdell said. “It’s more homey. It’s more personal. People feel good about coming to the president’s home, especially students.”

Visitors to the Ransdells’ house at 1700 Chestnut St. are usually entertained and fed in the dining room or outside on the Ransdells’ lawn. In an effort to give the public areas more Western character, the Ransdells have had murals of Western buildings painted on the dining room walls.

Their kitchen is equipped to cook for large numbers, and Ransdell said that it’s used as often by ARAMARK to cater events at the house as it is by him and Julie Ransdell.

When they’re not hosting events, the Ransdells cook for themselves. Ransdell prefers

grilling out and Julie Ransdell enjoys making desserts.

The president’s house takes a lot of wear from its public use, said Ransdell.

The Ransdells have a facilities team that cleans twice a week and a grounds crew that maintains the landscaping. They keep the home clean at all times, because functions are frequently planned on short notice, Ransdell said.

In the budget cuts, the president’s house has received a \$4,000 cut already and will receive an \$8,300 cut permanently. This money will come out of repairs and maintenance fees like groundskeeping.

“We’re just going to have to get by with less, like a lot of people on campus,” Ransdell said.

As for chores, Julie Ransdell tends the plants, and Ransdell takes care of the koi pond.

“We enjoy working in the yard,” Ransdell said.

The Ransdells also clean up after their two labradors, Topper and Spirit, and their son Matthew’s dog, Tsavo.

“We don’t expect people to pick up after our dogs,” Ransdell said. That is an important task considering how often the Ransdell’s have company in their yard.

Former President Thomas Meredith kept a full-time housekeeper. Ransdell said that isn’t something he and Julie Ransdell wanted.

“This is a very public job,

but when we’re there by ourselves, we value our privacy,” Ransdell said. “So we don’t have a staff.”

Ransdell uses Sunday afternoons to check e-mails, write reports and organize.

In the winter, he sits at a writing table in his den with a fire in the fireplace and sometimes a ball game on TV. In warmer weather, Ransdell takes his work outside.

“I’ll sit in one of our Adirondack chairs and work in the backyard or in the front yard under a tree or by the pond,” Ransdell said.

The president’s house is a busy place, whether there’s an event for 50 in the dining room, or the Ransdells are just catching up on their weekly chores.

Ransdell and the Board of Regents have agreed that he will remain president until 2022. He said that he will live in the president’s house during that time. He plans to retire in Bowling Green.

The Ransdells have already purchased property in Olde Stone, a neighborhood in Alvaton. They have a contract to pay Associate Professor Neil Downing’s architectural sciences class to design the Ransdell’s future home.

“WKU students are designing that house currently,” Ransdell said. “It’s pretty cool.”

Reach Eileen Ryan
at news@chherald.com.

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

BCM, mission work allows junior to share her faith

JILL ERWIN
Herald reporter

Harlan junior Haley Middleton lives at the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Literally.

Middleton resides in the BCM apartment with three other roommates: Melissa, Tiffany and Torrey. The women do janitorial work to stay there for free.

“I needed something that would cut cost for me and my parents,” she said. “I love free housing. It is a super amazing blessing from God.”



Haley Middleton

Sharing a two-bedroom apartment in the BCM was convenient because she said she would live there anyway. Her passion for God and bringing His word to others began as a young girl in Mexico.

She moved to Mexico at age 10, when her parents applied for New Tribes Missions, a group of missionaries around the country that minister to indigenous tribes, who are not familiar with Christianity.

“There are a lot of Indian tribes in Mexico that people don’t know about,” she said. “They have never heard of Jesus, ever. They have access to everything else in America. It is their job to bring the word to them.”

Middleton’s parents, Harold and Sue, still live in Chihuahua, Mexico and work closely with tribes of the country. Middleton visits them during winter and summer breaks and keeps in constant contact.

While her parents worked with translating the Bible into tribal language, Middleton found her own way to teach the word. She began helping at an orphanage, Lilly of the Valley. It opened her eyes to the human need for love.

The orphanage was in

charge of 130 children and had a staff of seven. Middleton helped by cleaning the facility and “loving on the kids.”

“It was great for the kids to have a constant face and I loved to be that for them,” she said.

The children sent to the orphanage suffered from substance abuse. Some of the children were as young as 5.

“Little kids were sent there for sniffing glue,” she said. “It was crazy. There was an entire room where there were 40 little boys (the youngest was 6) gathered and took an AA class.”

Middleton brought her experiences from Mexico to Western when she decided to go to a school close to her extended family. She spends shorter breaks with her granny in Harlan.

Middleton leads a praise band for the BCM and a Monday night Bible study for sophomore women. Her passion for God and compassion for people are the things that make her a great leader for the younger students of the organization, Campus Minister Tommy Johnson said.

“She uses her musical gifts to point beyond herself and

guide the worship to God,” Johnson said. “She has a passion for reflecting and taking those gifts and giving them back to God.”

Middleton has played the guitar for seven years. She also loves to sing. Her father and a few people in Mexico taught her worship songs. She uses it as a way of communication for her faith.

“Music has a lot of influence,” she said. “It is a big part of communication and worship is a branch of that. Through music, I show who He is and I am blessed to have that talent.”

Middleton’s sister, freshman Kelsey Middleton, looks up to her sister for guidance as a new student on campus. She said there were many options her sister could have taken when she first came to school, but chose a life of God instead of other things.

“When she came here she was alone,” Kelsey said. “Instead of turning to other things, she turned to God because she knew the truth was the only way.”

Reach Jill Erwin
at diversions@chherald.com.

► NEWS BRIEFS

Discriminatory lawsuit postponed for the third time

Hearing for the discrimination lawsuit Ingrid Woods brought against Western has been postponed again.

The trial, originally scheduled for June 4, 2007, was postponed for Sept. 11, 2007, and then again for Feb. 19, 2008.

The new hearing date is July 29.

Jeff Traugher, attorney at Broderick and Associates law firm, was representing Woods but has moved to a job in Todd County.

Kevin Hackworth resumed work on the case, but needs time to get the case together, said Greg Stivers, the attorney representing Western.

Woods, former assistant director of the Academic Advising and Retention Center,

claims in her suit that she was prevented from getting the position of director of the Academic Advising and Retention Center because she is a Hispanic woman.

Woods is suing for damages, including the pay increase she would have received if she had been promoted and punitive damages for emotional distress.

— Holly Brown



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TENNIS

Djuran uses connections, consistency in journey

SARAH HYMAN
Herald reporter

On a roster loaded with local talent, one of the most consistent performers on Western's women's tennis team hails from more than 5,000 miles away.

Junior Marija Djuran, a native of Belgrade, Serbia, has made an impact at no. 2 singles in her first year on the Hill, winning three of her five matches so far this season.

"It took a lot to adjust to college here, coming from so far away," she said. "But I knew that if I wanted to keep playing tennis, I needed to come to the United States."

While all of Djuran's teammates were raised in Kentucky or Southern Indiana, she grew up playing tennis while her home country endured two major civil

wars between 1991 and 1999.

"It was pretty tough," she said. "But it's just the way it is over there. I guess you get kind of get used to it after a while."

Djuran came to the United States to attend Oxford High School in Oxford, Miss., as a high school transfer student. Through clinics at a local tennis club, she met men's team freshman Currie Martin.

"We'd hit balls together every once in a while," Martin said. "There weren't many girls that could hit around with Marija. She was that good."

When Martin was being recruited to Western, he suggested coach Jeff True also pursue Djuran, who was then playing for Itawamba (Miss.) Community College.

Djuran said Martin's influence became a major factor in

her decision to play for Western, though Martin downplayed his role in Djuran's recruitment, saying his only contribution was mentioning her name to True.

"Knowing that I was coming here, I just wanted to help out the girls' team as much as I could," Martin said. "I knew Marija was a great player, a good person, stayed out of trouble (and) made good grades."

True said Djuran has been an example for the team, which has struggled with consistency this season.

"She's played at the level that we really need our players at," True said. "She's a very talented player and she's the kind of player that's going to make your team stronger all the way through."

Reach Sarah Hyman
at sports@chherald.com.

FIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

just came out and just tried to focus in."

But once Western got the lead going into the half, the Toppers never looked back.

ULM was down 56-55 with 11:07 minutes to go, but Western would again build a larger lead.

The question down the stretch was whether Western could work to build a large enough lead and still have enough time left to let each senior come to the bench one last time on their own terms.

Not quite.

ULM didn't go down without a fight, hitting a pair of three pointers in the last minute and a half that would keep the ball game a two possession game.

And while the "Ad-am How-ard" chants were heard, Horn wasn't quite ready to put Howard in because of the close margin.

"He's a crowd favorite," Horn said. "And you know, there's a reason for that. He's a team favorite too."

The senior guard would finally check-in one last time with 21 seconds after Lee made the second of two free throws.

And fittingly enough, it was Howard who scored the last two points for the senior class at Diddle when he was fouled with .5 seconds left and hit a pair of free throws.

Walker out for season

Horn confirmed Monday that senior forward Mike Walker will miss the rest of the 2007-08 season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

Walker injured his knee in the second half of Western's 69-64 loss to South Alabama last Thursday.

"It's heart-breaking," Horn said. "Just for him personally because he's been through so much on and off the court."

Walker was not available for comment on Monday.

Reach Andrew Robinson
at sports@chherald.com.

SERIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Young pitchers sometimes try to throw too many strikes when they are ahead in the count."

From the pitching staff, 12 of the 18 pitchers saw action during the series.

While the pitchers gave up 20 earned runs, Hightower believes as the season goes on, the young staff will continue to improve.

"I think we as a staff will

improve a lot," he said. "Because for a lot of us, it's our first time out, and we've only got a few returning guys."

After a successful opening weekend, the Toppers look ahead to facing Austin Peay tonight in Clarksville, Tenn.

The Governors are coming off a disappointing opening weekend after splitting Saturday's doubleheader with Valparaiso and eventually losing Sunday's finale.

Western will be going against a more experienced team. Austin Peay has only four freshmen and 12 junior-college transfers.

Finwood thinks that if the lineup continues to hit well all the way through, success should be inevitable.

"If the bottom of the lineup can be productive like (they were last weekend), then we're going to score a lot of runs," he said. "Because I think the top and middle (of the line-up) are going to be strong."

The Toppers play at 2:30 p.m. today at Raymond C. Hand Park in Clarksville, Tenn.

Reach Ryan Carey
at sports@chherald.com.

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EVENTS

► Tuesday

Baseball at Austin Peay, 3 p.m.

► Wednesday

Women’s basketball at Florida International, 4:15 p.m.

Men’s basketball at Florida International, 6:30 p.m.

► Thursday

Swimming at Sun Belt Conference meet, Nashville, Tenn.

► Friday

Women’s tennis at IUPU-Fort Wayne, 7 p.m.

Men’s tennis at IUPU-Fort Wayne, 7 p.m.

Baseball vs. Purdue, 3 p.m., Nick Denes Field

Softball vs. Hawaii, 11 a.m., UNLV Eller Media Classic, Las Vegas, Nev.

Softball vs. UNLV, 8 p.m., UNLV Eller Media Classic, Las Vegas, Nev.

► Saturday

Swimming at Sun Belt Conference meet, Nashville, Tenn.

Women’s tennis vs. Robert Morris, 1 p.m.

Women’s basketball at Florida Atlantic, 4 p.m.

Men’s basketball at Florida Atlantic, 6 p.m.

Baseball vs. Purdue, 2 p.m.

Men’s tennis vs. Robert Morris, 7 p.m.

Softball vs. Long Beach State, 11 a.m., UNLV Eller Media Classic, Las Vegas, Nev.

Softball vs. Pittsburgh, 1:15 p.m., UNLV Eller Media Classic, Las Vegas, Nev.

CONTACT

Sports Editor
DAVID HARTEN:
sports@chherald.com
Photo Editor
LIBBY ISENHOWER:
photo@chherald.com

SPORTS



Senior guard Courtney Lee drives to the basket against Louisiana-Monroe’s guard Jonas Brown during the Hilltoppers last home game on Saturday night. Lee lead the Toppers to a 86-75 victory over ULM on senior night.

farewell
TO FIVE

ANDREW ROBINSON
Herald reporter

Sure there was plenty of hoopla in the minutes leading up to Western’s 86-75 victory Saturday night at Diddle Arena. Each senior was honored before the game, and each walked to center court to the treatment of standing ovations. But as soon as the ball was tipped at the beginning, the hoopla ended and the slow start for the Toppers began. Saturday’s game came on the heels of Western’s emotional six-point loss to South Alabama on Thursday night. “I wouldn’t say we had a hangover from the South Alabama game,” senior guard Courtney Lee said. “It was a group of seniors out there to start the game that got emotional before the game and that can take a little bit away from your focus.” As much as Western strug-

gled, Louisiana-Monroe succeeded. The Warhawks shot 61 percent from the field, converting on four of seven attempts from three-point range. But Western was able to hold their own, scoring 30 points of 21 ULM turnovers. The Toppers bench also contributed, six players played 10-plus minutes and contributed 37 points to the cause. “We’ll take it,” coach Darrin Horn said. “A win, is a win, is a win, is a win. It wasn’t pretty, (we) did not play well. I take responsibility for not maybe getting us more prepared coming off that tough loss Thursday night.” A 11-0 run at the end of the half would put an end to any lingering effects from Thursday for the time being. “We didn’t panic,” senior guard Ty Rogers said. “We knew we’d work too hard to let something like that happen, we



Senior forward Jeremy Evans drives past Louisiana-Monroe during Saturday’s senior night game. Western defeated ULM 86-75.

Toppers take opening weekend series

RYAN CAREY
Herald reporter

The cold weather didn’t stop the Toppers’ bats from heating up on opening weekend. Western took last week-end’s three game series against Bowling Green State, 2-1. “This was a series where we could shake out any nervousness (that comes with) opening weekend,” junior outfielder/pitcher Matt Hightower said. “And (also) build on what we had and try to improve on everything that we’re doing.” Hightower pitched five innings and added a home run in Sunday’s 14-9 victory. Western had a total of 45 hits and four home runs against the Falcons’ pitchers this weekend. Junior infielder Chad Cregar hit two of this week-end’s four home runs and also went 5-for-13 with nine RBIs. One of Cregar’s home runs was a three-run shot over right field in the fourth inning of Sunday’s game to give the Toppers a 6-1 lead. “It’s fun to get out there



Second baseman Matt Payton lays down a bunt at Friday’s game against Bowling Green State. Payton reached first base later on when at bat and then was tagged out in a “pickle” between first and second base. The Toppers beat Bowling Green State 11-4 and won two of the three-game series this weekend.

and see some new jerseys and play against them,” Cregar said. “Our goal for the rest of the season is to win every series.” After winning the season opener on Friday, 11-4, Western

lost Saturday’s game after going 12 innings, 12-9. Coach Chris Finwood was proud of the young group of players, but he also saw some areas that the team will con-

tinue to work on. “I thought our kids came out there and fought hard and battled,” Finwood said. “We’ve just got to learn how to put hitters away.

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
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TRACK
Western
sweeps
SBC meet

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

Before Sunday, the men’s team and President Jimmy Carter had something in common. They both haven’t won since 1976. “I think both teams did extremely well,” coach Erik Jenkins said. “The men and women ran extremely hard.” Both the men’s and women’s track teams won the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships over the weekend in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This marked the third consecutive championship for the women’s team. The men’s team had not won an indoor champion in its time in the Sun Belt, and had not won an indoor conference championship since its inaugural year in the Ohio Valley Conference in 1976.



Terrill McCombs

In men’s field, the duo of junior Matt Taitt and sophomore Brian Soverns placed first and second in both of the throwing events, with Taitt winning men’s conference co-field performer of the week. The men’s sprinters placed in the top three in all the sprint events, a feat that Jenkins said “rarely happens” in track. Sophomore Terrill McCombs, and juniors Romaine McKay and Alexander Larin went first-second-third in the 400-meters. Sophomore Gavin Smellie and freshman Derrius Brooks went one-two in the 55-meters. In the 200-meters, McCombs and Smellie placed first and second, both running NCAA provisional qualifying times. Despite all of this, the Toppers found themselves down by two points to Middle Tennessee State going into the final event, the men’s 4x400 relay. In order to win the championship, the team of McCombs, Smellie, McKay and Larin would

SEE SWEEPS, PAGE 10

SOFTBALL
Lady Tops
post wins

COREY OGBURN
Herald reporter

It took two weeks to accomplish what has only happened once in eight years for the Lady Toppers softball team. Already this season the team has two wins over ranked non-conference opponents, Mississippi State and Oregon State. Western (7-3) completed a sweep of Mississippi State, ranked 15th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Top 25 Poll, on Sunday, defeating them 4-2. The win gives the team to three wins against ranked opponents so far this season. Its lone loss on the weekend came at the hands of a 4-1 defeat against Nicholls State. “I was very proud we were able to bounce back in that second game against Mississippi State,” coach Tyra Perry said. “We easily could’ve gotten down, but we stayed up and the team did an excellent job.” The Lady Toppers scored all four of their runs in the fourth inning. Sophomore right fielder Lindsay Antone homered to start the rally. Senior first baseman Shelby Smith then hit a two-RBI double, and freshman Brittney Perry came in to pinch-run and scored on a past ball.

SEE SERIES, PAGE 11

SEE WIN, PAGE 10